

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-10 /086 W
----- 065053

R 140830Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1973

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONGEN LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS LUSAKA 1522

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RH

SUBJECT: ANC ACCEPTS VICTORIA FALLS TALKS VENUE

REF: LUSAKA 1514

1. ANC CHAIRMAN BISHOP MUZOREWA ON AUGUST 13 ISSUED STATEMENT CONFIRMING NATIONALISTS AGREEMENT TO PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS WITH SMITH REGIME ABOARD TRAIN AT VICTORIA FALLS BRIDGE. FULL TEXT OF ANC STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

2. "IN KEEPING WITH OUR POLICY AS ENDORSED BY OUR ANC DAR MEETING, HELD LAST JULY, WE ACCEPT THE HOLDING OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS FACING ZIMBABWE. TO THIS END AGREEMENT HAS NOW BEEN REACHED AS FOLLOWS:

-- THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH ITS MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATIVES AND THE ANC THROUGH THEIR APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES WILL MEET NOT LATER THAN AUGUST 25 ON THE VICTORIA FALLS BRIDGE IN COACHES TO BE SUPPLIED

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BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT FOR A FORMAL CONFERENCE

WITHOUT ANY PRE-CONDITIONS.

-- THE OBJECT OF THE FORMAL MEETING IS TO GIVE THE PARTIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUBLICLY EXPRESS THEIR GENUINE DESIRE TO NEGOTIATE AN ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT.

-- AFTER THIS THE CONFERENCE TO ADJOURN TO ENABLE THE PARTIES TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT IN COMMITTEE OR COMMITTEES WITHIN RHODESIA.

-- THEREAFTER THE PARTIES TO MEET AGAIN IN FORMAL CONFERENCE ANYWHERE DECIDED UPON TO RATIFY THE COMMITTEE PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON.

-- THE GOVERNMENTS OF SOUTH AFRICA, BOTSWANA, MOZAMBIQUE, TANZANIA, AND ZAMBIA HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ENSURE THAT THIS AGREEMENT IS IMPLEMENTED BY THE TWO PARTIES INVOLVED.

3. "MR. SMITH MADE A SOLEMN UNDERTAKING THAT WHILE NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN PROGRESS THE ANC LEADERS IN RHODESIA WILL BE COMPLETELY FREE TO CONSULT WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES OUTSIDE RHODESIA.

4. "WE HAVE REACHED A GREVE MOMENT ON THE ROAD TO FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE. TO ACHIEVE OUR CHERISHED GOAL, WE MUST REMAIN COMPLETELY UNITED IN OUR PURPOSE AND ACTION. I, THEREFORE, CALL UPON ALL THE PEOPLE IN ZIMBABWE, BLACK AND WHITE, TO JOIN HANDS IN THE GREAT ENTERPRISE OF BUILDING PEACE BASED ON HUMAN EQUALITY, DIGNITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL."

5. ZAMBIAN PRESS ALSO REPORTS ANC MEMBERS IN SALISBURY WERE "CLEARLY ASTONISHED" BY IAN SMITH REMARK TO PARLIAMENT AUGUST 13 THAT VICTORIA FALLS MEETING WILL BE LIMITED TO FORMAL AGREEMENT BY BOTH SIDES TO TALK INSTEAD OF TO FIGHT AND MIGHT LAST NO MORE THAN ONE HALF HOUR. ANC PUBLICITY SECRETARY EDSON SITHOLE QUOTED AS SAYING THERE HAD BEEN NO AGREEMENT ON A CEASEFIRE IN GUERRILLA WAR FOR DURATION OF VICTORIA FALLS CONFERENCE. WHETHER HOSTILITIES TO BE SUSPENDED DURING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION STAGE ALSO MATTER FOR SPECULATION, ACCORDING ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, VICTORIA FALLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LUSAKA01522
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750281-0199
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750853/aaaabuli.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LUSAKA 1514
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 FEB 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANC ACCEPTS VICTORIA FALLS TALKS VENUE
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RH, (SMITH, IAN), (MUZOREWA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006